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Recreation Commission Minutes 06/10/2008

Park and Recreation Commission
Minutes

Tuesday, June 10, 2008
Approved

The Park and Recreation Commission came to order at 7:15 PM on the first floor of the Arlington Senior Center on Tuesday, June 10, 2008.

Members in attendance included: Leslie Mayer, Nancy Campbell, Jim Robillard, Jen Rothenberg and Don Vitters. Also in attendance was Director of Recreation Joseph Connelly.

Members of the public included: Clarissa Rowe, Jeanne Leary, Karen Coleman, Susan Mintz and Anne Doyle.

Approval of Minutes

The Park and Recreation Commission reviewed the minutes of May 21, 2008. Mr. Vitters amended the minutes for a grammatical error. Mr. Robillard motioned to approve the amended minutes and it was seconded by Ms. Rothenberg. Motion was approved 4-0-1 with Mr. Vitters abstaining.

Other Business

Ms. Rowe stated that she and Mr. Connelly would walk through Menotomy Rocks Park to look at potential dangerous tree limbs in the area. Ms. Rowe stated that Hills Pond would be treated on June 12th. Ms. Rowe also stated that she is working with Ms. Leary concerning drafting a beautification plan for the Summer Street area. Ms. Rowe will forward the draft plan to the Park Commission for review. Ms. Mayer also asked that the Friends of Menotomy forward their planting plan to the Commission.

Ms. Rowe and the Commission discussed the property line issue between the School Dept and the Park Commission. Ms. Rowe stated that she would be working during the coming year to come up with a proposal to bring to Town Meeting to simplify the issue.

Friends of Spy Pond Park Request for Planting

Ms. Grossman reviewed the letter from Kate Thompson from Carol Johnson and Associates and the planting recommendations. Ms. Grossman and the Commission discussed these recommendations and the proposal to add sand material to each area to assist in firming the area up. Ms. Grossman stated that the current surfacing (especially at the Linwood Street Beach area) was very muddy. Ms. Grossman and Mr. Connelly discussed the pathway material. Mr. Connelly stated that he did discuss the material with two contractors and the material seemed to be wearing appropriately.

The Commission discussed suggestions to recruit volunteers from the community to assist with the necessary weeding of the shore line. Ms. Mayer suggested soliciting help from the high school students for community service hours, AHS SAVE club, Roots &

Shoots group (associated with AEC) and the garden club. Mr. Connelly stated that he and DPW have discussed maintenance on several occasions and have bid out various maintenance plans. Mr. Connelly stated that both bid results have come back extremely expensive between \$16,000-\$24,000 and that funding was not available in the current Town Budget.

Mr. Connelly will forward the suggestions to the Conservation Commission for feedback. Upon receiving their feedback he will inform Ms. Grossman and the Commission. Mr. Connelly stated that any funding for the plan would have to come from the Friends of Spy Pond.

Other Business

Bench Dedication at Thorndike – Ms. Coleman reviewed her request to place a bench at Thorndike Field in honor of her child's soccer coach. Mr. Connelly reviewed the process to date. Mr. Connelly stated that he spoke with the Town Manager and the process is for the Public Memorial Committee to approve any naming and for the Park Commission to approve any placement on property under their jurisdiction.

Since the process associated with the requests made to the Public Memorial Committee remains unclear, Ms. Mayer asked that the process and requirements be formally presented to the Commission for future reference. Mr. Connelly stated that he did call a representative from the Public Memorial Committee to discuss the situation.

The Commission discussed the original bench request with Ms. Coleman. The Commission discussed the need for a pad at the location. Ms. Mayer stated that because of the neighborhood concerns related to flooding, no impervious surface should be placed at this location. Mr. Connelly stated that until the Thorndike Field Parking lot design was completed it was difficult to finalize any location.

Ms. Coleman requested that the placement of the bench move forward without the naming for now.

Ms. Mayer stated that the bench should be uniform in style to the standard town bench.

Mr. Vitters motioned to approve the request for a bench to be placed somewhere at Thorndike Field pending final location to be determined once the final parking lot plans are approved with the remaining details to be outlined at a later date. The motion was seconded by Ms. Campbell and approved 4-1 with Ms. Mayer voting in the negative.

Permitted Picnic Areas

The Commission discussed the current policy to permit just Menotomy Rocks Park for picnics. Mr. Connelly stated he receives requests for parks all over town but they currently use the field request form. The Commission discussed the difference in the two forms. The Commission asked Mr. Connelly to draft a generic form that could be used for various requests and to determine if there are differences in the requirements for requesting fields for sports vs. parks for general use.

Recreation FY 08 Budget Review

Mr. Connelly reviewed the following budgets year to date: Friends of Park Fund, Field Fees, Revolving Fund, Rink Budget and Recreation Budget.

The Commission discussed the various budgets. Ms. Mayer asked Mr. Connelly to make sure he received a donation of \$500 that was to be split between DPW and Friends of Parks from a Lexington abutter to the Reservoir. Mr. Connelly will check with DPW's Assistant Director Teresa DeBenedictis.

Mr. Robillard asked who still owed field fees. Mr. Connelly reviewed the list. Mr. Robillard and Mr. Connelly discussed contacting Legion regarding payment for this year and last year.

Mr. Connelly discussed the success of the rink's overall budget projected to finish in the black by \$20,000 and the anxious times of the Recreation Division with regards to programming. The Commission discussed marketing alternatives. Ms. Rothenberg

suggested coming to the Brackett School Fair. Mr. Connelly will see if staff is available.

Rink and Recreation Update

Rink Fees for 2008-2009

Mr. Connelly reviewed the memo to increase the rink rates to the following:

	<u>2006-2007</u>	<u>2007-2008</u>	<u>2008-2009</u>
50-Min Youth	\$175	\$195	\$200
60 –Min Youth	\$180	\$200	\$210
50-Min HS	\$180	\$200	\$200
60-Min HS	\$185	\$205	\$210
50-Min Others	\$180	\$200	\$200
60-Min Others	\$190	\$210	\$210
Game Rate	\$190	\$210	\$210

The Commission discussed the increases. Mr. Connelly stated the goal to increase the 60 minute time block over a series of years. The Commission stated that they were concerned with how high the 60 minute price would become.

Mr. Robillard motioned to approve the rink rates for 2008-2009, seconded by Ms. Campbell and approved 5-0.

Bishop School Field

Mr. Connelly discussed the series of complaints from Mr. Pine concerning non-permitted park users not obeying the new signs regarding hard ball play and directional play in the outfield. The commission stated that they were not prepared to offer an alternative suggestion but wanted to see how the signs worked over the next season and a half.

Peirce Field Fee Proposal

Mr. Connelly reviewed the new Peirce Field fees as proposed to the School Committee. Mr. Connelly reviewed the process and stated that the users were in support of the fees. Mr. Connelly stated that the Recreation Department would be losing a couple of thousand dollars in field revenues. Ms. Mayer expressed concern that Recreation programs would not be exempt from paying Peirce Field fees – even though youth sports are. The Commission and Mr. Connelly discussed the need to change the way that Peirce Field is permitted since this is a School Department property/fee and the Recreation Department cannot be expected to absorb the administrative overhead associated with this new process.

Special Events

John Budzyna – Arlington Center for the Arts (Shakespeare in the Park)– Menotomy Rocks Park – 7/27/2008

The Commission discussed this request. Ms. Mayer asked if Mr. Connelly felt the rear field would be completed by then. Mr. Connelly believed the field should be stable enough to support the activity. Motion to approve by Ms. Campbell and seconded by Ms. Rothenberg. Motion approved 5-0 with conditions of trash in and trash out, police detail and portable bathroom to be removed that day.

International School of Boston – Robbins Farm – 9/6/2008 with a rain date 9/7/2008

The Commission discussed the time of the event and number of people. Ms. Rothenberg indicated that trash has been a problem in the past. Ms. Mayer asked Mr. Connelly to get more information and have the organization complete the appropriate form. – No Action.

CRY America – Thorndike Field – 8/23/2008

Ms. Mayer asked Mr. Connelly to make sure the organization knew that this was not a permit for the bike path and just the field. Ms. Rothenberg asked that Mr. Connelly make sure the use of the table was appropriate. The Commission discussed the use of the field. Ms. Campbell motioned to approve, seconded by Ms. Rothenberg and approved 5-0.

Alex Hoffinger – Friends of Waldo (Movie Night) – 6/28/2008

The Commission discussed the request. Ms. Campbell motioned to approve, seconded by Ms. Campbell and approved 5-0.

Capital Update

Buzzell Field – Mr. Connelly stated that the project was completed and a punch list meeting was being held later in the week.

Thorndike Parking – Mr. Connelly stated that a second public hearing was being held on Tuesday, June 24th and that the multiple options developed to date by Larson would be sent out to various interested parties prior to the meeting.

Pheasant Ave. – Mr. Connelly and Ms. Campbell discussed the preliminary meeting with the contractor and the landscape architect.

Summer Street Field – The Commission is waiting for a planting plan from Ms. Rowe with regards to the tree plantings along Summer Street.

Handicap Parking at Parks and Playgrounds – Ms. Mayer and Mr. Connelly discussed a conversation with Ms. Barbara Cutler of the Disability Commission to make parks and playgrounds more accessible by providing handicapped parking spaces near the facilities (on street if there is not a parking lot). Ms. Mayer and Mr. Connelly will identify three or four recently renovated properties and potential parking locations and will make a recommendation the Board of Selectmen for TAC.

Committee Updates

There were no Committee updates to report

The Commission discussed having a summer meeting on either July 21st or July 28th. Mr. Connelly will solicit feedback and post the meeting.

Bishop School Poster for Kiosk

The Commission reviewed the poster, which would be fossilized for the kiosk at Bishop. The Commission recommended that the picture of the identifiable young girls be removed. Ms. Campbell motioned to approve the poster with the change of the removal of the young girl's picture. The motion was seconded by Ms. Rothenberg and approved 5-0.

Ms. Campbell motioned to adjourn, seconded by Mr. Vitters and approved 5-0. Meeting adjourned at 10:35 PM.

Respectively Submitted:

Joseph Connelly, Director of Recreation